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# FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

## CHINA.

### Hongkong—Plague—Examination of Rats.

Surg. Brown reports: During the week ended September 7, 1912, there were reported at Hongkong 3 cases of plague with 2 deaths.

During the same period 1,239 rats were examined for plague infection. No plague-infected rat was found.

## CUBA.

### Habana—Inspection of Vessels Clearing for the United States.

Acting Asst. Surg. Wilson reports as follows regarding the inspection of vessels clearing for ports in the United States:

*Week ended Sept. 28, 1912.*

Bills of health issued.....	34
Vessels inspected and passed.....	25
Members of crews of outgoing vessels inspected.....	1, 013
Passengers of outgoing vessels inspected.....	530
Vessels fumigated to kill rats.....	17
Vessels fumigated by Cuban authorities under supervision of the Public Health Service.....	5
Vessels certified as complying with paragraph 35, United States Quarantine Regulations.....	10
Bills of health issued recommending fumigation of vessels on arrival at United States ports.....	3

During the week ended September 28, 1912, there were examined for plague infection 484 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

## DAHOMEY.

### Yellow Fever.

From May 21 to June 5, 1912, there were reported 6 cases of yellow fever with 3 deaths at Abomey. On June 13 a death from yellow fever was reported at Porto Novo.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

### Liverpool—Destruction of Rats.

The following statement from the medical officer of health at Liverpool was received through Consul Washington under date of September 24:

A systematic warfare has been carried on for a number of years in this port and city against rats. The sanitary authorities employ special rat catchers throughout the year and have recently added to the number of professional rat catchers employed. A large proportion of the rats caught, approximating 60 to 70 per cent, are sent to

the city bacteriologist for examination, after being dipped in petrol to kill the fleas. Since the beginning of the current year more than 5,500 rats have been caught, of which 3,000 were examined and of this number only three were found plague infected. One of these was caught on board ship April 30 and the other two were caught in adjacent warehouses August 1 and 30, respectively.

A rat catcher is put on board every ship coming from a port suspected of being infected with plague and all precautions are taken to prevent rats coming ashore. The area in which the two infected rats were found is about 2 miles from the transatlantic liners' docks. During the past eight or nine years about 35,000 rats have been caught in the port area and forwarded to the university for examination and in no case was plague discovered.

#### **HAWAII.**

##### **Examination of Rodents for Plague Infection.**

During the week ended September 14, 1912, 593 rats and mongoose were examined at Hilo and 1,596 at Honokaa. No plague infection was found.

At Honolulu during the same week 166 rats were examined. No plague infection was found.

The last case of human plague occurred at Pepeekeo, Hawaii, September 13, 1912. The last plague-infected rat was found at Olaa, Hawaii, September 9, 1912.

#### **ITALY.**

##### **Genoa—Epidemic Typhoid Fever.**

An epidemic of typhoid fever has been reported present in Genoa. From August 31 to September 26, 1912, there were reported 704 cases with 46 deaths.

#### **JAPAN.**

##### **Cholera.**

Surg. Irwin at Yokohama reports September 16 and 23: Cholera is spreading in southern Japan. At Osaka 12 cases were reported from September 14 to 21; at Moji 142 cases to September 21. At Shimonoseki, opposite Moji, 41 cases have been reported. On September 19, 4 cases were reported at Kyoto. On September 20 a total of 231 cases of which 136 were in Fukuoka-ken and 57 in Yamaguchi-ken was reported for all Japan. On September 23 the number of cases reported present in Fukuoka-ken was stated to be 330.

Two cases of cholera with one death were reported September 12 and 18 respectively, at Kobe.

##### **Epidemic Cerebrospinal Meningitis.**

Cerebrospinal meningitis is reported present in epidemic form at Okayama. On September 19 there were reported 21 new cases, making 347 cases from the date of the outbreak.